

The Spirit

Volume III Number 2

October 2006

ST. JOE'S WINS MAJOR GRANT

NSF Money Slated for Incoming Science Majors

By Marsha Desrosiers

St. Joseph's College came up a big winner in the grant sweepstakes by nabbing a National Science Foundation award worth \$499,240.

The nearly half-million dollars will be used in conjunction with a project called MOSAIC—"Meeting our Scientific and Interdisciplinary Challenges," a program that awards scholarships to high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in the sciences or math.

The grant is the result of the efforts of the math, computer science, biology and chemistry departments on both the Brooklyn and Patchogue campuses. The writing of the grant was under the supervision of S. Jane Fritz with the assistance of Professor David Seppala-Holtzman, Francis Antonawich, S. Mary Maier and William McAllister.

The NSF grant will provide a means for St. Joseph's College to reach out into the community to encourage bright high school students with offers of up to \$4000 each in scholarships to attend St.

Joe's. The program will run for five years, with funds becoming available for the fall of 2007 and expiring in 2011.

The genesis of the grant request was a perceived need on a national level for a new generation of scientists, mathematicians and engineers in the United States so that it can remain competitive with other nations in the global economy and global scientific arenas.

To publicize the NSF grant, brochures are in the process of being printed. They will be disseminated to high school counselors and information about the grant will also be available online.

The actual distribution of grant money to individual students will be by a committee made up of faculty representatives from both campuses. The Financial Aid Office will also help in the distribution and awarding of funds based upon need.

"I am grateful to have received the NSF grant and grateful to the faculty members who worked so

well to win this recognition for us," said S. Elizabeth Hill, president of St. Joseph's College.

Over 370 grant proposals were submitted to the NSF for funds under the S-STEM program (Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics), but only 110 schools received awards, putting St. Joseph's College in "a select group nationwide," according to the NSF.

"I'm a senior and a science major," said Gurgit Singh, "but this scholarship money wasn't available when I entered college. I'm glad to see that other students will now be encouraged to enter the sciences because of this grant," he added.

The need for America to remain competitive and stay at the forefront of technological innovation will be crucial in the coming years. It is hoped that with NSF grant money to schools such as St. Joseph's College, the next generation of graduates will keep America on the leading edge of discovery and innovation.



S. Elizabeth Hill, who Announced NSF Grant, Greets the Class of 2010 at Freshmen Orientation in September.

INVESTITURE WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

Honors Induction Recognizes Academic Achievements

By Ana Fernandez

Pomp and pageantry; recognition, renewal and rededication to scholarly ideals. All these were on display September 18, 2006 at the annual Investiture and Honors Induction ceremonies held in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

Investiture is the act of 'clothing' the members of the freshman class with their academic robes, mortarboards and hoods. By being enrobed, new students as well as transfer students are welcomed into the St. Joseph's College community.

For the incoming Class of 2010, the opportunity to listen to key faculty members was a way of making them aware how important their schooling would be.

It also made them feel as though they were part of something bigger than themselves—an entire community dedicated to ideals of learning and achievement.

The second portion of the ceremony saw students inducted into two of the college's honor societies. Sigma Iota Chi is the St. Joseph's College honor society and

Delta Epsilon Sigma is a national scholastic honor society.

S. Loretta McGann, Vice President for Academic Affairs, inducted the students into Delta Epsilon Pi. Dr. Susan Straut Collard of the Committee of Academic Development and Director of the Dillon Center inducted the members of Sigma Iota Chi.

"Being a member of Sigma Iota Chi honor society was a goal that I set for myself from the very first day of my freshman year," said sophomore Amy Tirado. "It feels good to accomplish my goal and I hope to continue with it for the rest of my years here at St. Joe's," she added.

The program for Investiture and Induction is organized by S. Margaret Buckley, Academic Dean of the college with the assistance and cooperation of many other staff members.

Numerous details must be attended to before the ceremony can take place. Caps and gowns must be ordered and distributed to the incoming freshman, invitations must be ordered, guest speakers arranged

for and the program written, revised and printed.

Additionally, the banners that read *Integrity, Intellectual and Spiritual Value* and *Social Responsibility* must be brought to Brooklyn from the Patchogue campus.

The keynote speaker at Investiture was Rev. John A. Gilvey of the St. Joseph's College faculty.

There was also a religious component at the ceremony when at the conclusion, campus minister S. Susan Wilcox delivered the benediction.

"This annual ritual helps to remind us to renew our appreciation to academic excellence and to welcome the new students," said S. Margaret. "We lost a percentage of students and we get another percentage of new students with different talents and abilities," she added.

It is the hope of the administration and staff of St. Joseph's that the Investiture and Honors Installation will motivate students and help them appreciate the need to aim high in their studies.



Seniors Honor Society Inductees Receive their Accolades

EDITORIAL

HOMEWORK: 'OH THE HORROR, THE HORROR'

Well, the school term has hardly begun and already the educrats—those wise guardians of young minds—armed with studies and statistics have identified the new 'Great Satan' of society. Yes, the United States has relinquished the title. The new 'Great Satan' is—homework!

Yes, there it is. The root of all evil—the cause of nervous breakdowns in children, the collapse of the family unit, even obesity—it is all attributable to our misguided practice of assigning homework to school children. And if you don't believe it, check out two new books by 'experts' in the field: *The Homework Myth* by Alfie Kohn and *The Case Against Homework: How Homework is Hurting our Children and What can be Done About It* by Sarah Bennett and Nancy Kalish—the latter two of whom are lawyers by trade rather than educators.

It is the premise of both texts that homework does absolutely nothing to improve learning in children and that in fact, it does irreparable harm by making them dislike learning. Of course, much of this claptrap is substantiated with surveys of parents and students. Question to student: "Do you like homework?" Answer: "No." Conclusion: Aha! You see—we told you so!

The fact is that the material in *The Case Against Homework* is largely anecdotal. One of the authors has a friend who has a cousin who knows someone whose child dropped out of high school because he was forced to do homework in 5th grade. That sort of thing. Or, one author knows a child who developed lumbar spine problems because he spent hours hunched over his desk and his books doing homework (but not over his *Xbox*).

Does anyone honestly believe that everything a student must learn can be learned in a 42 minute block of time—that no reinforcement or application is necessary? Does any real educator honestly have a problem with students reading material the night before so that they can be an intelligent participant in classroom discussions? The only people who seem to have such beliefs and doubts are those ivory tower academics who do not put themselves on the line every day teaching. They sit back and pontificate and foist their quaint notions upon the real members of the profession.

Here's a survey anyone can try—and statistically, it will be as valid as the hokum purveyed in the two above-mentioned books. Ask a student: "If you didn't have homework, what would you be doing?" Honest responses would be: playing *Xbox* or *Play Station 2* or watching MTV, or talking on the phone—or chatting online. How many would say, "I would be spending quality time with my family, caring and sharing with mom and dad?" Answer? Very few. But these 'experts'—who seem to have little more than a nodding acquaintance with the reality of today's teenagers—blame homework for the collapse of family values.

We wring our hands and wonder why we are a third-rate nation educationally. We despair at falling SAT scores and the fact that nearly half of all New York City high school students are below grade level in math and reading and do not graduate in four years. We wonder why Russia, Bulgaria and Sweden *et al* outperform us in international math and history competitions. It's really not a mystery: their students work harder and are held to higher standards than ours. Remember, to pass a New York State Regents exam, students *still* only need to score a 55!

No one believes that homework should be mere 'busy' work. It should have meaning and should always be checked by the instructor. But asking students to do 15 math problems to reinforce a principle learned in class—or changing a variable slightly to make them think a bit—none of this qualifies as cruel and unusual punishment.

Nor are the solutions offered by these self-proclaimed experts viable. For example, one suggests a formula of ten minutes of homework for each grade level. In other words, a first grader does ten minutes of homework per night—with none permitted on weekends or over vacations (that family quality time thing again). We must wonder if they ever asked real teachers what they thought could be accomplished in ten minutes time.

Until we face certain realities and stop letting 'know-nothings' determine educational policy for our children, we will remain on the slippery slope to educational mediocrity. And make no mistake about it: it is a long and very steep drop.



No, mom. There's no homework tonight 'cause the teacher said it's bad for us.

THE SPIRIT

St. Joseph's College
245 Clinton Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11205

ADVISER

Dr. Howard B. Weiner

Editors-in-Chief

Christina Ament

Tara Vafiadou

Assistant Editors

John Castaldo

Angela Romeo

Arts Editor

Nick Souleotis

Photography Editor

Svetlana Medvedeva

Technical Editor

Robert Marriello

Sports Editor

Mark Wilson

Music Editor

John Castaldo

Cartoonist

Amy Tirado

REPORTERS

Ervin Maddox, Gurgit Singh,
Jaclyn Collins, Ana Fernandez,
Marsha Desrosiers, Angela Romeo,
Ashley Pucciarelli, Shifat Noor



Tara Talk

By Tara Vafiadou

SOME THOUGHTS ON IDOLS – AND IDOLATERS

It was a day to remember—no really, it was! Think of it: I read two whole newspapers—and didn't find a single mention of Paris Hilton or Lindsay Lohan! Imagine—a 24 hour period when neither of these two luminaries made it into the print media.

It makes you wonder about American popular culture, doesn't it? I mean, who are these people that Americans hold so near and dear to their hearts? Who exactly are our idols?

One would think (if one believed everything that newspapers print) that Lindsay Lohan is the second coming of Meryl Streep—or, dare we mention her? Katharine Hepburn. Why? What exactly is the body of film work that she has produced? *Herbie Fully Loaded*? *Mean Girls*?

Lucky Me? (which, if I remember correctly, sold about 12 dollars in tickets).

And yet, we follow every move this hard-drinking, chain-smoking, party girl makes as though she were some kind of royalty. Why?

Then, of course, we have Paris Hilton, who has yet to manifest any demonstrable talent (other than making some, ahem, creative videos), but you can't pick up a paper without seeing her face plastered on one page or another.

American society tends to idolize people because of the way they look, behave or by the amount of money they make. Notice the conspicuous absence of how deeply they are capable of thinking.

Thought is dead—or at least dormant when it comes to Pop Culture.

Though I am the same age as

Lindsay Lohan and but a few years younger than Paris Hilton, I am still aware enough to realize that there is something very wrong in our society and its sense of worth.

On a dare, I asked five of my friends if they could name three famous physicians (one asked if family doctors counted). Needless to say, none of them could name even one. Not a Jonas Salk, Christian Barnard, or even Albert Schweitzer came to a single mind.

Okay, so I changed my approach. I asked if they could name a famous scientist. Success! All three new the name Albert Einstein—but that was it.

No one had heard of Stephen Hawking, or Enrico Fermi—or even Isaac Newton!

But here's the sad part about it: all three could name every winner on *American Idol* since the show began its run. Normal? Problem? Most of America would say no.

Frankly, it scares me. You read a lot about how America is being 'dumbed down.' Here's a news flash for you: it already is dumbed down! Why speak of it as something that will happen in the future?

The news media bears an unusual amount of blame for what has happened in our culture. They are the ones who artificially create the new 'stars' in the pop culture firmament. They are the ones who give press space to convicted felons like Lil' Kim or Courtney Love.

Now it is true that some of our idols, a Brad Pitt, Angela Jolie and Bono have done great philanthropic works. Only a real cynic would say that they do it simply for photo ops or to increase their bankability at the box office.

Some athletes like Derek Jeter have established their own foundations with the zillions of dollars they get paid and provide scholarships for needy kids.

But you get the feeling that for every one who does something wonderful, there are an awful lot who buy new cars and houses with their mega-salaries.

Yet we still idolize them, don't we? Even some crummy benchwarming reserve infielder gets about 7 million dollars a year for being a Major Leaguer. But a heart surgeon, who can save hundreds of lives each year is lucky if he can clear a measly million.

You laugh. But shouldn't that type of person be our hero? Or what about some 19 year old Marine on the frontline in Falujah? Shouldn't he be one of our heroes? Or cops? Or firemen?

No one expects us to plaster our bedrooms with posters of our favorite neurosurgeon or rocket scientist. But shouldn't there at least be some type of awareness on our part of who it is we want to emulate? I just get the feeling that most Americans believe that if someone makes loads of money, they must have some intrinsic worth.

Some people spend their lives in anonymity. They do good works, and only they, their immediate circle of friends and whatever god they worship ever know about it.

Others, for whatever shallow reason, are the darlings of the paparazzi. Our children want to grow up just like them. Imagine an entire generation of Paris Hiltons. I can—and I do, because mentally, that's what we are turning into.

Be afraid. Be very afraid!

Yearbook Grabs Second Consecutive National Prize

Footprints 2006 Cited for Overall Excellence

By Angela Romeo

Two in a row! Yes, chalk up another win for *Footprints 2006*, the St. Joseph's College yearbook.

For the second consecutive year, *Footprints* has won First Place in the annual contest and critique run by the American Scholastic Press Association of College Point, New York.

The ASPA is an organization dedicated to the promotion and evaluation of journalism on the collegiate and secondary school levels.

For over 35 years, the ASPA has evaluated the work of thousands of colleges and high school across America, providing valuable tips as to how publications may be improved and tailored to fit the most current journalistic trends.

"I am very proud of the work of the editors and staff of *Footprints 2006*," said Dr. Howard Weiner, Director of Student Publications on the Brooklyn Campus. "Putting together a yearbook is a task that takes nearly fifteen months and it couldn't be accomplished without so many people making significant contributions," he added.

In addition to its First Place award, *Footprints 2006* also received special recognition for the Best Presentation of Theme. The theme of *Footprints 2006* was

"In our Own Backyard" and the theme section as well as many of the two-page spreads in the book expanded upon this theme.

"I think special recognition goes to the editors-in-chief of *Footprints 2006*, Samantha Saines and Christine Contessa," said Dr. Weiner. "They worked ceaselessly to usher this publication along from inception to distribution," he added.

St. Joseph's College's fledgling literary magazine, *Calliope*, was awarded Second Place in the ASPA national contest.

Here, Dr. Weiner's face turns a bit long as he discusses *Calliope*. "I don't like coming in second-to anyone or in anything," he said. "It's not good enough to say that 'well, it was our first year, so we should be happy with Second Place.' No, I won't accept that. We must now learn from the score sheet that the judges provided and fix whatever problems we had in the publication," he added.

At the same time, Dr. Weiner said that he was equally proud of the work of his editors-in-chief, Samantha Saines and Fiona McWilliam. "At times it was a struggle to make *Calliope* happen, but Sam and Fiona did tremendous work at the end to pull it all together for us," said Weiner.

Calliope is a joint publication with the Patchogue campus and poetry and short story submissions were accepted from students at both Brooklyn and Patchogue.

"Working with editors at two campuses was a logistical difficulty, but in the end, we were able to overcome those problems," said Dr. Weiner.

Some of the things that the judges suggested for *Calliope* were illustrations for some of the poems and the inclusion of different genre such as song lyrics and non-fiction essays.

Dr. Weiner has already put out a call for submissions on the Brooklyn campus and has received over a dozen to date. "We want to review as wide a variety of works as possible to make *Calliope* truly representative," he said.

As for *Footprints 2007*, work began on that yearbook in March of 2006. The editors-in-chief are Tara Vafiadou and Ashley Pucciarelli. "We think that *Footprints 2007* will be the most graphically interesting yearbook ever at St. Joe's and we've finished over 50 pages of it already," said Ms. Vafiadou.

With publications well under way during the fall term, Dr. Weiner and his staffs are hoping for a 'threepeat' when the next ASPA contest occurs in the spring of 2007.



Editors Tara Vafiadou and Ashley Pucciarelli With Awards

Annual Halloween Bash 'Spooks' Campus

By Amy Tirado

Autumn means colorful leaves, crisp breezes and seasonal celebrations, such as CAB's annual Halloween Bash, scheduled for October 31 during common hour in the cafeteria of McEntegart Hall.

One of the St. Joseph's major fall traditions, the Halloween Bash typically attracts over a hundred students, many of whom come in costume for the celebration.

"This is an event that I have helped plan since I was a student," said Assistant Director of Student Life Jaime Vacca-Hoeffner. "It used to be just pizza, candy and music, but we have been building on that since then," she added.

Some of the things that CAB has now incorporated into the Halloween Bash are raffles, henna tattoo artists, tarot readers, caricaturists, face painters and costume and pumpkin carving contests.

In fact, the "Pop the Balloon Raffle" was devised by Ms. Vacca-Hoeffner when she was a student and it remains a crowd-pleaser today. Students purchase an inflated balloon and contained inside is a ticket for a chance to win a variety of prizes such as DVD sets or free tickets to the annual Fright Fest held at Six Flags Great Adventure.

Last year was the first time the

Halloween Bash was held in the cafeteria. CAB plans on decking out the entire area with seasonal decorations to add to the spirit of the day.

"It will be real creepy," said Anthony Catalanotti, the On Campus Events Coordinator of CAB. The entire CAB staff encourages students to get into the Halloween spirit.

"Make sure you dress up! There will be a costume contest, games, and lots of candy available for everyone," said Catalanotti.

Planning of the event will continue right through October 31 to make sure that as many entertaining activities as possible can be included in the party.

"KTU will be there supplying the music as well as prizes for their own contests. Representatives from the United States Army will also be there giving out information," said Christina Contessa, Off Campus Events Coordinator of CAB.

Although costumes are not required, CAB encourages everyone on the St. Joseph's campus to be creative and have fun at the Halloween Bash.

The members of CAB are confident that with enough participation, Halloween Bash will be one of the featured events of the fall semester.



CAB Members set up for Halloween Fest '05

Chapel Players Breaks New Dramatic Ground in Fall Show

By Rhomesia Ramkellowan

The Chapel Players' fall production of Craig Pospisil's *Months on End* represented a dramatic departure from the type of plays that the group normally performs.

Though a one-act play, it contained twelve separate scenes, each one representing one month in the lives of a family and its circle of friends.

Unique about the play was that it did not tell the story through nonstop action. Rather, it provided glimpses into the lives of the characters and their relationships.

Each scene in the play showed only a few important minutes of each month and most of the conflicts occur between the scenes.

This is an unusual format for a play, since most rely upon straight narrative exposition, but this method of presentation brings a unique aspect to the play, allowing the audience to see the characters develop gradually.

Chapel Players director Tom Hoeffner described the play as "minimalist, meaning, of course, that there is a minimal set." In fact, the stage is virtually blank, with only one set piece per scene on an otherwise empty stage.

He likens the lack of set to Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, though the plays are completely different in content.

This also represented a departure from the norm for Chapel Players, whose audiences are accustomed to seeing a full set on stage.

Months on End straddles the

genre line. "It is not a comedy, it is not a tragedy," said Hoeffner. "I like to describe it as realistic drama, which is ultimately why I picked it," he added.

This is perhaps the first time that the Chapel Players have attempted a play that relies upon real life situations rather than broad comedy, fantasy or farce.

Performers in *Months on End* included Tom Brown, Anthony Catalanotti, Nicole Guliano, Steven Klein, Adam Mace, Emily McManus, Carlos Pimentel, Alison Putre, Joy Quiles and Andrea Rosado.

Ms. Rosado's character, Elaine, is a woman involved with a married man and she undergoes tremendous guilt over her relationship. Mastering the nuanced role required her to gain an in-depth understanding of the

character's emotions, which, in turn, increased her knowledge of the actor's craft.

Hoeffner stressed the importance of lighting design in *Months on End* since it was crucial "to strike the proper mood for each scene."

From the director's point-of-view, mounting the production of *Months on End* was "A challenge, as is every play. Satisfying, as is every play. Exhausting, as is every play. Enjoyable, as is every play," but ultimately for Tom Hoeffner, "Worth it, as is every play."

With *Months on End*, Chapel Players, St. Joseph's College's Club of the Year for 2006, breaks new and fertile ground and adds to its repertoire a challenging play that audiences can identify with and enjoy watching performed.



Director Tom Hoeffner at a 2006 Chapel Players Rehearsal



The Culture Vulture

By Nick Souleotis

A WORLD OF KID-FRIENDLY SHOWS

My name is Nick Souleotis and I'm the new 'Culture Vulture' for *The Spirit*. I'm proud to be a part of the newspaper staff and let me tell you what I'll be doing here.

Each month I will be writing a column about everything that has to do with culture from happenings in theatre to book reviews. I'll explore the city, the Borough of Brooklyn and St. Joseph's College looking for cultural events that I think might be of interest to you. So here we go!

We truly live in the most exciting place on Earth! It has become obvious to regular theatre-goers that a large number of Broadway houses have been taken over by child-friendly musicals.

The latest addition will be Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* which opens on October 25th at the Hilton Theatre. That was home to the short-lived adaptation of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* which closed several months ago and now it will house the new Seuss production.

Of course, there are no guarantees on this one. A previous Seussian effort flopped twice: *Seussical: The Musical*, so we'll have to wait and see how the book, so fond in our childhood memories, translates to the stage.

Tarzan is yet another show out of the House of Mouse that opened six months ago to strong reviews. It stars *American Idol*'s very own Josh Strickland and it was a huge hit for composer Phil Collins.

Also from the Mouseworks are the seemingly run-forever productions of *The Lion King* and *Beauty and the Beast* which are entering their ninth and eleventh years on Broadway respectively.

It's wonderful to see child-friendly musicals arriving each year on Broadway. This is a fantastic way to open a child's mind to both culture and music. Young minds can become enthralled by attending their first musical.

I remember my parents taking me to see *Beauty and the Beast* when I was five years old. It was that experience that awakened in

me a love for theatre. To date, I have seen over thirty Broadway shows.

Theatre is a marvelous way to begin a child's journey towards cultural awareness. Gearing theatre towards youngsters is also a way to boost the box office take. If there is a down side, it's that just because a show is child-friendly, doesn't mean that it is wallet-friendly. Broadway shows are still prohibitively expensive for many, which is very sad. Theatre should be for everyone—not just people with hefty disposable incomes.

Many parents would be ecstatic to bring their children to a night of captivating theatre rather than to a violent, vulgar and intellectually vapid movie. Think *Snakes on a Plane*, for one. But the key is being able to afford the tickets.

On another cultural front, let me recommend a book to you that I think you will enjoy: *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul*. Part of the "Chicken Soup" series that includes everything from Golf to Embroidery, *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul* will warm your heart with inspirational stories that will keep you on an even keel at those uneven moments of your life.

One does not have to be deeply religious or even of the Christian faith to appreciate this book.

Each chapter has a story that will touch you in a special way. These stories are meant to showcase the importance of faith and miracles in society.

Each story has a deep mythical meaning. For example, "The Tablecloth" is the tale of how an old tablecloth and a stormy night bring two survivors of the Holocaust back into each other's lives.

This is a book that will leave a definite impression upon anyone who reads it.

All right, folks, that's about it for now. Look for me in each edition of *The Spirit* and if you have something in particular that you would like me to write about, please feel free to email me with your comments criticisms or suggestions at NJS88745@student.sjc.edu.

See you next month!

Counseling Office Tackles 'Major Confusion'

'Confused About Your Major' Program Sorts Out Details

By Christina Ament

Remember the end of high school? Clad in cap and gown, you walked down an aisle, glanced at faces of friends you knew you would probably lose touch with, you crossed a stage, received a diploma and were declared a graduate.

For many students, the real question now first occurred to them: what am I going to do with my life?

For those young people who decided to go to college, that question was often linked to the selection of a major. Though some students have known for years what they wanted to be, others have had considerably more difficulty in deciding.

Fortunately for St. Joseph's College students, October 12 gave them the opportunity to attend seminars at an event entitled, "Confused About Your Major."

Held during common hour and again at 5 PM, the event was hosted by Frank LaTerra, Director of Counseling and Career Development and Lily Shmulevich, Assistant to the Counseling Director, along with other staff members of the college.

Like so many other students, Mr. LaTerra himself was unsure about selecting a major as an undergraduate. His desire to help

students in making that decision was a motivating force behind sponsoring the seminar.

"The event involved distributing resources and providing key self-reflective questions targeting interests, values, and motivations to students," said Ms. Shmulevich. "It helped students realize things about themselves they may not have known and helped to give them a different perspective," she added.

According to Ms. Shmulevich, part of the activities was a Power Point presentation for students who wanted to clarify their career decisions.

Mr. LaTerra and Ms. Shmulevich both stressed the importance of knowing that choosing a major is a difficult decision and once it is made, it is not set in stone. A student still has the ability to change his mind and seek a major in another area.

"When you enter college," said Mr. LaTerra, "there is pressure to decide upon a major right away, but it takes time to make a decision like that. The Power Point helped students to get some ideas (if not make an actual decision) and we encouraged them to come to the office and use our resources," he added.

The types of resources available in the Counseling Office include

books, information about job fairs, and one-to-one counseling to help students discover what careers they are most suited for.

"Confused About Your Major" is just the first step in the counseling process. Ms. Shmulevich stresses the importance of following up on it by coming to future events and coming to the counselors for advice and assistance.

Both Mr. LaTerra and Ms. Shmulevich believe that an internship is an excellent way to get hands-on experience in a field and the Counseling and Career Center has a great deal of information about their availability.

Five major events are planned by Career and Counseling Services this semester.

"I hope that students, regardless of their year in school, will attend these events," said Mr. LaTerra "because we will be talking about a wide variety of topics that directly affect a student's choice of careers," he added.

The Career and Counseling Center is located in Room 205 of Tuohy Hall and students are welcome to drop in or make an appointment to talk about their future in school or in the workplace.

St. Joseph's Remembers September 11, 2001

Memorial Stresses Need for Global Unity

By Nick Souleotis

It has been five years since the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001 that ended nearly 3000 American lives in New York City, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. For some, the wounds are still as raw as if they were newly inflicted. For others, time has soothed the hurt—but not erased the memory.

The Memorial Ceremony held on the St. Joseph's College campus on Monday, September 11, 2006 was a way of bringing students and faculty members together in both gestures of remembrance and renewed hope for a better world.

The event was organized by several campus organizations including Campus Ministry and Outreach Club, the Political Affairs Club and the SJC Jazz Ensemble. Coordinating the event was S. Susan Wilcox, Campus Minister and moderator of the Campus Ministry and Outreach Club.

"The purpose of the Memorial Program was to show that this was a combined effort of all the clubs for the specific goal of seeing the diverse international organizations and the awareness they are creating," said S. Susan.

There were several segments to

the program. In the morning, students and staff members had the opportunity to light votive candles for the souls of the victims of the terrorist attacks.

During the program itself, club presidents gave brief speeches about how their organizations were working for the betterment of society through awareness and proactive programs.

The SJC Jazz Ensemble was represented by singer Amanda Gavagan and guitarist James Ciago who performed a song entitled "One September Morning."

"Singing this song meant a lot to me as it was performed in my high school not long after the terrorist attacks," said Ms. Gavagan.

A collection was also made during the program which would be presented to the families of the victims of the September 11 attacks.

The events of that day five years ago have changed America and indeed, the world. Each individual has reacted to that day in a different way and these reactions are very personal in nature. Some of the responses have affected the spiritual beliefs of a segment of the population.

S. Susan well remembers that day. She was in Manhattan not far

from the World Trade Center when the attacks occurred. She remembers that the people she saw looked, "shocked, bewildered and devastated."

She also believes that the attacks "drew people closer to their faith in the Lord" and she uses as affirmation of this the fact that "churches were packed after 9/11."

The reactions to the Memorial were almost universally positive. Freshman Raquel Roman was encouraged by the various projects that school clubs are involved with to better the world. "We got to see firsthand what issues are occurring internationally," she said.

For other students, such as freshman Jessica Chirico, the 9/11 Memorial was their introduction to activities at St. Joseph's College. "I thought it was all very interesting, and since this was my first event at St. Joseph's, I know I will attend others of this nature in the future," said Ms. Chirico.

The day was about painful memories and horizons of hope—hope that an attack such as 9/11 will never happen again, and hope that through the efforts of many, the world will look beyond the hatreds that brought about those attacks.



Ivan Nichols Speaks at September 11 Memorial Ceremony

DONATE BLOOD!
OCTOBER 23-24
TOUHY HALL AUDITORIUM
HELP SAVE A LIFE TODAY!



MUSICAL NOTES

By John Castaldo

VINYL STAGES A COMEBACK

Hello again music fans! John Castaldo here, bringing you the latest trends in pop music and happy to share my thoughts with you on what music means to me.

Recently in the news, I have come across multiple articles heralding the return of the vinyl record album. I have chosen to write about this triumphant return and see what its implications are for the music-buying public.

In the late 1980s, the Compact Disc (CD) replaced the vinyl record album as the dominant mode of recorded entertainment. Just as the LP swept away the 78RPM discs of the 1930s and 1940s, the vinyl disc seemed like a dinosaur and was declared extinct by music mavens everywhere.

Though vinyl had managed to outlast the 8-track and cassette tape, it could not stand up to the CD with its infinite lifespan, ability to hold far more music and its far greater fidelity to the true sound of music.

No, the vinyl disc was as outmoded as the Model-T or straight razor. Or so it seemed.

Currently, we are living in the era of the iPod. Digital music players and the phenomenon of music downloading have revolutionized the music industry and society.

Not a day goes by in which I do not see someone plugged into an iPod. Having an iPod is also fashionable. Gone are the days of the portable CD players—and in many ways, CDs themselves. Rejected as overpriced in comparison to 99 cent downloadable music from iTunes or \$5.99 unlimited music downloads from Yahoo, CDs are going the way of 8 track and cassette tapes.

So where do vinyl record albums fit into this equation?

As of late, vinyl records are making a comeback. Many people have begun to realize that vinyl records, though they do not last as long as CDs, have an obviously better sound than the CD. The sound of a vinyl record is much more alive in comparison to a CD.

For example, I collect Sinatra CDs and record albums. I have "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning" on both vinyl and CD. While both allow me to hear Frank Sinatra's wonderful emotion-charged voice, it is the vinyl record

that make it seem like Sinatra is in my living room—singing just to me. Vinyl record albums record music as it was meant to be heard.

Besides, when you hold a vinyl album, you can read the program notes without getting a case of eye-strain from struggling with 7 point type on CD liners.

You may think that because Sinatra recorded in an era where vinyl was the only medium available, that this is the way his music was meant to be heard. If that were the case, then how does one explain bands such as Jet, releasing vinyl record of their recent albums?

One music reporter stated, "Vinyl is loved." I agree. Those people who have lived through the vinyl era love it and cheer its return and praise its superior sound. However, young musicians of the post-vinyl era are now also opting for vinyl, which is nothing short of amazing.

One major problem, however: the availability of record players is almost non-existent. Walk into Best Buy or Circuit City and try to find a record player. The young clerks will look at you and say, "A what?"

For the past two years, I have collected Vinyl records, but prior to that time, I would dismiss vinyl as something that disappeared with the typewriter. The first time I heard vinyl, I was hooked—and now I boast a collection of over 250 record albums.

Hey, you can buy them used for as little as \$2.00. I bought a Sinatra CD new for \$14.50—and the same album on vinyl used—for \$2.00. Which would you buy?

True, current artists are asking \$25.00 for a new vinyl album, but those prices will come down. Now they are specialty items. Hopefully, soon they will become standards.

In closing, Vinyl may never be the king of recorded music again, but it will certainly be a player in the industry.

Here are my Top Five albums for October: (1) "Last Man Standing" by Jerry Lee Lewis. (2) "Continuum" by John Mayer. (3) "Duets: An American Classic" by Tony Bennett. (4) "Ray Sings, Basie Swings" by Ray Charles and the Count Basie Orchestra and (5) "Future Love/Sex Sounds" by Justin Timberlake.

That's it for this month. I'll be back to talk music with you again in the next edition of *The Spirit*.

Literary Magazine Seeks Submissions

By Ashley Pucciarelli

Calliope, the prize-winning journal of the literary arts of St. Joseph's College is now in the process of collecting materials for the 2007 edition of the publication.

The journal, a joint effort of the Brooklyn and Patchogue campuses of the college, published its first edition in the spring of 2006 contained 13 poems and 3 short stories.

This year, the Student Publications Department would like to see the journal expand in size and scope.

"I feel confident that there are more creative people on the two campuses of the college than were represented last year," said Dr. Howard Weiner, Director of Student Publications.

For that reason, solicitation and collection of poems and stories already began in September and will continue through the end-of-term deadline for all submissions.

The poems and stories will then be selected and edited by a joint committee of editors representing both Brooklyn and Patchogue.

Calliope began as a project of the English Literature Club under the mentorship of Professor Margaret Jennings of the English Department. However, the actual editorial

process and production of the journal was the responsibility of the Publications Department.

"As a former owner of several printing businesses, I took it upon myself to do the paste-up of the journal and usher it through the production process," said Dr. Weiner, "but I had a great deal of assistance from Samantha Saines and Fiona McWilliam, the editors of the journal, in the actual physical assembly of the book," he added.

This year's editor-in-chiefs are Catherine Bartnik and Nicholas Souleotis, a freshman who was also the editor-in-chief of his high school literary journal at St. John's Prep.

"It is a tremendous honor for me, a freshman, to have been selected to edit the 2007 edition of *Calliope*," said Souleotis. "I'm very proud that Dr. Weiner has enough confidence in me to get the job done and I will do my best to make it as much of a success as the 2006 edition," he added.

On his selection of a freshman as editor, Dr. Weiner said, "To me, half the battle is to find someone who is super-enthusiastic about what he does. I can teach principles of editing and aesthetics, but the enthusiasm has to come from

within, and I think that's what Nick brings to the table as editor."

For the 2007 edition of *Calliope*, Dr. Weiner would like to see many more poetry submissions. Additionally, he would like to see many of the poems illustrated to give the journal more visual appeal.

"We can always make something bigger," said Dr. Weiner, "but maintaining the same level of quality is what we are aiming for—no matter what the size," he added.

Short stories and song lyrics are also welcome. "Possibly, we can superimpose the song lyrics over sheet music when we produce the journal," said Souleotis.

All submissions, poems or prose, should be brought to the Publications Office (Room 607, St. Angela Hall) or they can be placed in the Publications Mailbox on the first floor of Tuohy Hall.

"All submissions must name the author. No anonymous submissions are permitted—and all poems and short stories must have titles," said Dr. Weiner.

The deadline for submitting works to *Calliope 2007* is December 19, 2006 to guarantee an early spring production date.

Karaoke Adds 'Fun' to Fundraising

By Robert Marriello

Charity comes in different forms. Sometimes it is a straight donation to a good cause, but other times, it involves a fun activity that raises money for something worthy while allowing participants to have a good time in the process.

For this reason, the Student Ambassadors Club kicked off the school year on September 20th with their annual Karaoke Party, held during Common Hour in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

The recipient of the proceeds from Karaoke this year was St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. St. Jude's, founded by entertainer Danny Thomas, treats children who are suffering from catastrophic diseases—at no charge to their families.

All the operating expenses for

St. Jude's come from individual and corporate donations. St. Joseph's College has worked closely with St. Jude's over the years in programs such as Up Til Dawn which also raised money for the hospital.

"We've done a lot of karaoke parties, but this is one fun group," said Sherry Cohen, the MC for the event and a DJ with "A Touch of Class" entertainment.

Unlike most karaoke events, where participants merely sing along, this time, some people actually performed along with the music.

One memorable performance was given by Tom Brown, Adam Mace and Anthony Catalanotti, who performed "Greased Lightning." Not only did the trio choreograph their performance, but they even went out into the

audience to get them even more excited about the music.

Also notable was Andrea Rosado's rendition of Kelly Clarkson's "A Moment Like This." She performed the song as a request and since she was familiar with it, singing it came naturally to her.

Raffles were another feature of the karaoke party. St. Joseph's gear was awarded to individuals whose tickets were drawn by the DJs.

The event ended with "A Touch of Class" offering Justin Timberlake's tune, "Sexyback" to the acclaim of the crowd in Tuohy Hall.

Students got to display their singing talents, money was raised for the brave children of St. Jude's, and the Student Ambassadors had another successful event under their belts.

New Assistant Dean Joins Faculty

By John Castaldo

New to the academic hierarchy of St. Joseph's College for the 2006-07 school year is Ms. Janine Lapham, the new Assistant to the Academic Dean, S. Margaret Buckley.

No stranger to St. Joe's Ms. Lapham has been at the college for three years as a tutor in the Writing Center. She also had taught graduate classes and teaches an enrichment class during the summer.

Amongst Ms. Lapham's duties will be to take the reins of the Academic Center as its new director. Located on the third floor of the library building (McEntegart Hall), the Academic Center is a place where students can come for tutoring, assistance in math, accounting, virtually any subject in

which they need help.

Ms. Lapham wants to make one of her priorities, increasing the



New Assistant Dean Janine Lapham

profile of the Academic Center so that more students will be attracted to it and come for tutoring.

She would also like to be able to have an impact upon the academic work ethic of the student body, to keep them striving for academic excellence at all times.

Ms. Lapham has taught English Literature both in London and in Egypt. She would enjoy putting that teaching background to use at St. Joseph's College.

"I am always taken by how vibrant campus life is here," she said. "I find the students social and friendly," she added.

Ms. Lapham's office is located in Tuohy Hall opposite Room 206. She hopes to meet with many students during the year and become a real part of the St. Joseph's family.

SENIORS!
DEADLINE FOR BIOGRAPHIES
FOR FOOTPRINTS 2007
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2006
Bring Your Biography to
Room 607, St. Angela Hall

Science Club Sponsors Fall Blood Drive

By Gurjit Singh

Death and taxes are no longer the only sure things in life. Add to that list: the need for blood donations never diminishes.

In a city as large as New York, where the borough of Brooklyn is home to more than two million people, the need for blood at area hospitals is always profound. Each year, the St. Joseph's College Science Club sponsors two blood drives, one in the fall term and one in the spring term. The first drive will take place on October 23-24 in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM.

These blood drives give students and staff members an opportunity to help others in a concrete and demonstrable way—by offering a pint of blood that can help up to five other individuals.

Each pint of blood that is collected has the ability to be broken down into five component parts, so in reality, anyone who donates is really in a position to

help five separate people.

The Science Club, moderated by Sister Mary Maier, runs the drives, but the actual collection is done by representatives of the Brooklyn/Staten Island Blood Center, with whom the college has had a relationship since 1999.

Overall, the annual blood drives have been conducted at St. Joseph's for the past fifteen years.

"Giving blood doesn't cost you anything and it makes you feel good because of the number of lives it can save," said Chemistry Lab Assistant Joe Pipino.

Any member of the St. Joe's student body or staff can donate blood, provided they meet certain criteria. A preliminary blood test and screening is done before the actual donation can be made, and there are restrictions on donating.

For example, anyone who has had either a tattoo or a piercing within the last full year is not permitted to donate — so the blood center

recommends that you hold off until after the conclusion of the drive.

Officials of the blood center also recommend that donees eat a normal breakfast and drink a little more fluids before their donation.

The number of pints donated last year at St. Joe's was 46, which represents a fall-off from previous years. In 2001, the college received an award for the highest percentage of students donating. The officers of the Science Club would like to see a return to those numbers this year.

"I would like to thank everyone who has donated in the past and all those who are planning to donate this year," said S. Mary Maier. "They have given a gift of life to others," she added.

A blood donor can replace a pint of blood in three to four weeks. One normal meal is enough to help the body adjust to the donation. But the impact of that donation upon others knows no time limits or other constraints.



Professor David Seppala-Holtzman Donates Blood in 2006

personal issues. These might include interests, value systems, goals, problems at home and any other personal concerns students may have.

Though the counselors are willing to discuss anything of interest to a student, there are times when further referrals may become necessary. "If a certain situation comes up with the student and we feel we don't have the resources, we can make a referral to other agencies that may have the appropriate or adequate services," said Ms. Shmulevich.

The entire purpose of the CCDS is to "serve the best interests of the student," said Frank LaTerra. "We would never turn away a student," he added.

The CCDS is available Mondays through Thursdays from 9 AM to 6 PM and Fridays from 9 AM to 4 PM. The office can also accommodate students who need appointments on Saturdays as well. The new office is now located in Room 208 of Tuohy Hall.

Because of the expanded space, the CCDS has been able to hire an intern from NYU, Taneisha Green, who is a counselor in training and will assist with all responsibilities with students in the office.

Frank LaTerra holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Psychology from NYU and a Master of Science in Education from Hunter College. He also holds a License in Mental Health Counseling and is a certified School Counselor.

Lily Shmulevich has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from SUNY Stony Brook and a Master of Arts in Applied Psychology from NYU.

Amongst the new initiatives planned by the CCDS are a series of "Professional Sessions" which will include seminars on topics such as "Preparing for a Job Interview," "How to Land a Job," "Learning about Internships" and "Resume and Cover Letter Writing."

Each one of these programs is designed with helping students prepare for their careers and their futures.

"I think we have services available to help students clarify their goals," said Mr. LaTerra. "There are definitely obstacles you encounter as a college student and we're here to help you through them," he added.

One needn't ever feel alone or lost on the St. Joe's campus. Not as long as there is a CCDS to turn to for assistance and advice.



THE GAMESMAN

by ROBERT MARRIELLO

THE GAMER ANDY INTERVIEW

Something a little different this month. I was privileged to snag an interview with Gamer Andy, one of the real luminaries in the gaming world. Rather than describe what he had to say, I thought I would just print the interview word for word, so here we go:

Gamesman: Let's dive right into the first question. How did you get the idea to start "Gamer Andy Live?"

Gamer Andy: The show? I've been studying to be an audio guy for about three years now at school, and radio has always been a passion of mine. That, and I love forcing my opinion on other unsuspecting saps. But I kid! Anyway, we've been doing the show since July of 2005, which is a lot longer than I thought we would, that's for sure.

Gamesman: Okay. Why did you decide to go with the name, "Gamer Andy?"

Gamer Andy: At the time we started the site, I was using the alias "Andrew Johnson." A lot of the motivation for starting the site was to counteract another site calling itself "Major Ynos," so I thought since he represented the majors, I could represent the gamers. Thus, "Gamer Andy."

Gamesman: Cool. What type of equipment do you use to produce the show?

Gamer Andy: Well, when it was just a podcast, it was just a couple of cheap headsets and audacity. But now that we do it live, there's a G5 involved with a bunch of software that our engineer puts together specially for us. Oh, and Skype (free internet phone program). Lots of Skype.

Gamesman: Don't you use Vonage for the show so people can call in?

Gamer Andy: Right, we do that too. That's the 800 number.

Gamesman: Speaking of that, what time is the show on and how can people interact with it?

Gamer Andy: We're on every Thursday from 9-11 PM EST at Allgames.com. We have people hanging out in our live chat room from there calling in.

Gamesman: When you were

first starting the show when it was just a podcast and not the phenomenon it is today, who was the first person you turned to for help in making the podcast?

Gamer Andy: Well, I wouldn't call us a phenomenon.

Gamesman: You have people around the world listening to you.

Gamer Andy: Fair enough. Anyway, who did I turn to? I really went alone for the first 6 to 7 months. The key to making a good, entertaining talk show is the content and the chemistry between hosts. That's something that Hawkes and I have worked a long time in getting down. It's like a marriage—a very unhappy marriage with lots of screaming and eye-rolling—which makes for great radio.

Gamesman: Speaking of Hawkes, aside from him, who are some of the regulars on the show?

Gamer Andy: Edie is our ringer. She's been doing radio and other forms of media for about 15 years now in the San Francisco area. George is our one-man army who wields a sharp intellect and brings it to bear with all the cunning and sharpness of an enraged boar.

Gamesman: What are your favorite and least favorite games?

Gamer Andy: Right now, I'm really enjoying "Company of Heroes" by Relic. I am, however, getting sick of all the Final Fantasy wannabes that keep coming out. Some things need to die.

Gamesman: I do a section each column called "Fact or Fake." Want to try one?

Gamer Andy: Sure. Hit me.

Gamesman: (1) Your show has never done a live broadcast. (2) Dreamstation.cc celebrated its one year anniversary with its 52nd podcast in April. (3) In April, during an X-Play marathon, X-Play created a drinking game to go along with the event.

Gamer Andy: I think the fake one is about my show.

Gamesman: Correct!

Gamer Andy: Well, there ya go!

Gamesman: Thanks again for the interview!

Next month, we switch to a Tech column and not just gaming. Can't wait to start it! See you all then. Gamesman signing off!



Counseling Director Frank LaTerra Addresses Freshmen Orientation

New Offices and New Programs = Big Plans for CCDS for 2006-7 Year

By Jaclyn Collins

With new office space and new initiatives planned, the Office of Counseling and Career Services has hit the ground running this semester and is prepared to offer advice to St. Joseph's College students in a wide variety of areas.

Counseling and Career Development Services offers confidential advice dealing with both personal issues and career choices. Personal counseling is available from the Director of the CCDS, Mr. Frank LaTerra, and his assistant, Ms. Lily Shmulevich.

"All students on all levels can come in to speak with us," says Ms. Shmulevich, "and they can talk about anything they want," she added.

The CCDS has already reached out to over 1000 companies and has assisted students in finding appropriate internships which are both credit-bearing and non-credit.

Much of the work of the CCDS involves job counseling.

It is surprising how many college students reach their third and even fourth year without a clear picture in mind of what type of work they would like to do. The CCDS can help to unravel the mystery.

"It is important that students have access to Career Counseling throughout their college careers. They should meet with the Director a few times a semester starting with their freshman year," said Dean of Students, Dr. Susan Hudec.

Although many students do in fact come to the CCDS for career counseling, many come to discuss

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What do you think of the changes made to the college over the summer break?



The new Student Life office is more modern and bright. It's very welcoming and inviting for all students.
—Stephanie Igneri



I think it's good to see that some changes are happening on the campus. It breaks up the monotony of seeing something over and over.
—Professor Kenneth Bauzon



The expansion of St. Joe's opens up the school more and helps involve more of the students. Expansion equals change and that will benefit the school.
—Athena Thomas



It's a positive thing for the campus and it seems to make things more organized.
—Dona Gamonski



It's more student-friendly. They took something small and changed it into something that feels more like a college campus.
—Nicole Olsen



I like the new offices and where they are located. It's more modern and convenient and we can find things more easily.
—Gina Khan



Any questions I have regarding Student Life are now easy to get answers to because all of the offices are in a large suite now. It's an inviting atmosphere.
—Courtney Leja



I think the changes are good. The space is bigger for student services. It's more space to work in and that expansion is very positive.
—Chris Cosme



It's a good idea to be renovating for the new students. I like how they are making new changes to accommodate more things.
—Elysia Dessereau



It's marvelous for additional space in the lobby. It is a better position for security and an ideal position for a receptionist.
—James Lackey, Security



I think the changes made to St. Joe's make a school that is already great even greater.
—Danny Daghestani



I think the changes made to St. Joe's are spectacular and they have made the school even more beautiful.
—Yolanda McDonald

Brushing Up on Shakespeare—Jukebox Style

By Shifat Noor

The Bard of Avon may never be looked at in the same way again—not after the Knighthorse Theatre Company visited St. Joseph's Tuesday October 3 during Common Hour to perform the *Shakespearean Jukebox*.

A cross between the Ridiculous Theatre Company of the 1990s and the Marx Brothers at their most madcap, the Shakespearean Jukebox is a presentation of any and all of Shakespeare's 37 plays at lightning speed and with eye-popping action.

Founded in 2003, the Knighthorse Theatre Company is the creation of husband and wife team Tyrus Lemerande and Amy McLaughlin, the two-actor team that performs the jukebox.

Lemerande holds a master's degree in acting from Penn State University and McLaughlin received her training at the Trinity Rep Conservatory. Their formal training in classical theatre has prepared them well to tackle the

works of Shakespeare.

But that is where the traditionalism vanishes and the new, interactive theatricals begin. The Shakespearean Jukebox gets the audience involved in every step and phase of the performance.

The members of the audience get to choose which plays will come out of the 'jukebox' and then with amazing rapidity, the acting duo gives their hyperkinetic version of the play.

Think Shakespeare on a caffeine high and you pretty much see what the performance was like.

"The Shakespearean Jukebox allows for a better comprehension of Shakespeare through an entertaining, very interactive performance," said Dan Ristea.

That, as Ristea notes, is the avowed purpose behind the Knighthorse Theatre Company. As Lemerande, the Artistic Director of the company, notes, "We want to get Shakespeare off the page and onto the stage. Shakespeare wasn't meant

to be read. His plays should be seen; his words must be heard."

Coming prepared to perform something as vast as the Shakespearean canon is in itself a remarkable challenge. But whether the audience opted for comedies, tragedies, histories or romances, the Knighthorse Theatre Company was ready to pull the audience into the words and stage actions of each particular drama.

"It's nice to see Shakespeare performed in our modern day. It brings back memories of the plays we read and enjoyed. It's just a great way to be reminded of such great works of literature," said Surbhi Dalal.

Lemerande said that the avowed purpose of his theatre company is "To give a better knowledge of Shakespeare while at the same time adding a little bit of modernity to appeal to a college audience."

If the reaction of the St. Joseph's College students was any indication, then the Knighthorse Theatre Company succeeded nobly in their efforts.

Thumbs Up for Fresh Orientation

By Tara Vafiadou

It was more than a party and more than a welcome. In fact, it was in the true sense of the word, an orientation: it got the freshman class of 2010 pointed in the right direction.

September 5, 2006 saw a host of activities planned by the Office of Student Life, U.A. and CAB for the incoming freshman class.

The day began with an 'ice-breaker' in which the frosh got to know their new classmates.

Continuing with this theme, guest speaker Steve Rosen of the Broadway show *Spamalot* addressed the class and stressed the importance of unity and friendship. He then led the class in a series of theatre games, all of which are designed to break down barriers and get people talking to one another.

The class was divided into smaller groups during the afternoon and they participated in projects that stressed teamwork such as 'Build-a-Bear.' Within these 6-8 person groups, students introduced themselves and the orientation leaders took them through various vital pieces of information that they would need to know about St. Joseph's.

Other staff members including

college president S. Elizabeth Hill and Dean of Students Dr. Susan Hudec spoke to the Class of 2010 and stressed the expectations that the college has for each one of them as students.

The theme selected for Orientation 2006 was 'Treasure Hunt' and indeed, treasure was part of the orientation activities as raffles of prizes such as portable DVD players and iPods were part of the day's events.

"Each year the Orientation Committee makes changes in the program in an attempt to improve what we offer the freshman," said Assistant to the Director of Student Life, Jamie Vacca-Hoeffner. "This was the most successful orientation program we have had in the years that I have been here," she added.

After an entire day's activities that lasted almost 8 hours, Orientation 2006 still was not over. Waverly Avenue was closed and the college held a block party outside of St. Angela Hall complete with music, dancing and refreshments.

By day's end, the new students were on their way to becoming full-fledged St. Joseph's students.



Freshmen Meet their Orientation Leaders

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

By the SJC Historical Society

230 Years Ago (1777)

The American army defeats the British at Saratoga, inspired by the battlefield heroics of General Benedict Arnold.

225 Years Ago (1781)

General Cornwallis of the British army surrenders to the joint American and French forces at the Battle of Yorktown, thus ending the American Revolution.

120 Years Ago (1886)

The Statue of Liberty is dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

77 Years Ago (1929)

The Stock Market crashes, ushering in the Great Depression.

65 Years Ago (1941)

Mount Rushmore is completed by Lincoln Borglum, son of the original sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, after construction that began in 1927.

42 Years Ago (1964)

Red China detonates its first nuclear bomb, bringing it into the circle of global nuclear powers.

41 Years Ago (1965)

Pope Paul VI visits the United States and also addresses the United Nations in New York City. He is the first Pope ever to visit the United States.

36 Years Ago (1970)

Singer Janis Joplin is found dead as a result of a heroine overdose.

17 Years Ago (1989)

A magnitude 7.1 earthquake hit the San Francisco-Oakland area 3 days before the World Series.

11 Years Ago (1995)

Former football star O.J. Simpson is acquitted of the murders of Nicole Brown-Simpson and a male friend.

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



THE SPORTING LIFE

BY MARK WILSON

CAN THE METS REKINDLE THE MAGIC?

I was but a wee babe the last time the Mets won a World Championship, 20 years ago to be exact. We Mets fans admit we haven't been as privileged as Yankee fans who were able to be part of a dynasty less than ten years ago.

But Mets fans still relish the year 1986. They still drool over the comebacks in games 6 and 7 of the World Series. They still relish the magic, but they miss it just the same, if not more.

Now, in 2006, the Mets hope that a little bit of the magic has come back to the team. There have been some glimpses of it in the bat of David Wright or in the legs of Jose Reyes, but the test of whether the magic has returned will be in the post season.

The Mets looked unstoppable in their sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers, made even more amazing by the fact that both Pedro Martinez and El Duque were out of the lineup—Martinez until next summer.

Now, the real competition begins, having dispatched the Wild Card team in style.

In 1986, the Mets had a swagger about them. The rest of the league hated them for their brash attitude, arrogant statements, bold curtain calls and their notorious flair for fisticuffs.

Although the 2006 Mets don't brawl at the drop of a hat, they are no stranger to walk-off wins or the occasional doffing of their caps after a home run. The similarities between the '86 Mets and the 2006 Mets are not only evident in their gestures and attitudes, but more importantly, in their performance on the field.

In 1986, the Mets won with a combination of outstanding speed and power pitching. The numbers the World Champion '86 squad put up were remarkable. Some of the 2006 team's stats are even better.

In '86, the Mets had the speed of Mookie Wilson and Lenny Dykstra who combined for 56 stolen bases. The 2006 Mets have numerous speed demons, most noticeably, Jose Reyes who had 64 stolen bases!

The Amazins of 20 years ago had the power of Daryl Strawberry (27 homers and 93 RBIs) and Gary Carter (24 homers and

105 RBIs). This season those numbers were blown out of the water with the power of the 'Carloses.' Carlos Delgado ended the year strong with 38 home runs and 114 RBIs. Carlos Beltran broke numerous records for Mets centerfielders with 41 homers and 116 RBIs.

The pitching in '86 was perhaps the leading force behind their magical World Championship. The Mets of yesteryear had an outstanding rotation which included such names as Dwight Gooden, Ron Darling and Bob Ojeda. Their bullpen was also a force to be reckoned with. Roger McDowell and Jesse Orosco shared the closer duties and had a combined 43 saves between them.

The 2006 squad's closer, All-Star Billy Wagner, saved 40 games himself for the Mets.

Although the Mets bullpen has been a great strength over the season, the starting pitching has often left something to be desired. While the staff of 20 years ago was a unique batch of rookies, the current staff is teetering on the brink of collapse.

The average age of pitchers Pedro Martinez, Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez and Tom Glavine, the top three starters in the Mets Rotation, is 37 years old—archaic in the sports world. This could lead to an untimely downfall of the current Met team as it moves deeper into the playoffs.

But, if history has a way of repeating itself, the Mets should be in store for another dose of magic. Hopefully, it will find its way into the arms of the starting rotation.

The 1986 Mets showed their true valor and zest for victory in the post season. The 2006 Mets have met the first challenge of the playoffs and it remains to be seen how the jury rigged starting staff can come through against teams more formidable than the Dodgers.

Mets Manager Willie Randolph has done remarkable things with the team, having learned his lessons well as the right hand to Joe Torre for years. But as another Mets manager of yore, Yogi Berra, once put it, it could be 'deja vu all over again' if the team reaches down, finds the magic, and brings the World Championship of baseball home to New York City.

Cross Country Team Hits Ground Running Second Year Squad to Compete in Full Meet Schedule

By Ervin Maddox

They're off and running—literally—as the St. Joseph's College Cross Country team enters its second year of varsity competition.

Cross Country running is a sport that sees team members competing in races of 8 kilometers (5 miles). But instead of running on level tracks in arenas or stadiums, the competition takes place at locations such as Van Cortland Park in the Bronx over hilly and irregular courses.

Now entering its second year, the Cross Country team has expanded in size with the infusion of freshman talent and will compete in a full slate of 4 meets throughout the metropolitan area. These meets against more experienced, veteran squads, will be important for the team's development. "Our schedule helps the team gain the experience it needs," said the coach.

Head Coach Mark Carbone, now in his second year at the helm of the team, brings a positive and enthusiastic approach towards his runners.

"We could possibly win it all," said Coach Carbone, referring to the Hudson Valley Athletic Conference championship. "We have a new

look and it feels like more of a team effort this year," he added.

The team brings several important strengths to conference competition. Two of those strengths are sophomore Paul Kielmanowicz and sophomore Przenyslaw Kudla. According to Coach Carbone, both runners have outstanding potential to place high and help the team.

However, counterbalancing the strengths of the team are several weaknesses, chiefly in the area of experience, which will be vital for success in a tough schedule of conference meets.

"We have some strong runners. There is a lot of competition in our conference but I think we could be a contender for the title," said transfer student Dana Bruce.

The team consists of two seniors, one junior and five freshmen. A majority of the runners are also members of the basketball team, and this too is a potential weakness. There are only a limited number of hours in which to train, and the main focus of most of the runners is basketball.

Another problem for Coach Carbone is to find a replacement for T.J. Byrnes, last year's Hudson Valley

Athletic Conference champion.

Returning to the team this year are Lukaaz Cygan, one of the emotional leaders of the team and Paul Kielmanowicz, who brings a good combination of speed and endurance to his running.

New to the squad are Mike Donnelly, a senior who is also the captain of the basketball team; Danny Daghestani, who Coach Carbone refers to as "The Sleeper," who never ran three miles last year, but who improved immensely over the summer; Dane Bruce, a freshman who the coach says is a "complete upside to the team, and Luke Klimaszewski, a hard-working 6'3", 220 pound basketball player who is in terrific shape.

Confidence is running high on the team. "Because of extended preparation and excellent leadership from Mark Carbone, we are ready for the season," said Luke Klimaszewski.

The Hudson Valley Conference Championship takes place on October 28. By that time, Coach Carbone and his runners hope to be right at the top of the pack in the quest for the title.



Cross Country Team off and running at Van Cortland Park

Volleyballers Blaze to Big Season Start

By Mark Wilson

Just weeks into the season, the Lady Bears have established themselves as the volleyball team to beat in the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference.

A 7-0 record has put their opponents on notice that the Lady Bears, last year's HVWAC Champs, are back for a try at a repeat performance.

The team's last victory, over Ramapo College at the Bradley Center in Mahwah, New Jersey, was a thrilling come-from-behind victory which featured a huge performance from Magdalena Wiecek, who had a team high 20 kills and 9 digs in the victory.

Wiecek showed her value to the St. Joe's Volleyball Team by being named the USCAA National Player of the Week for the week of September 24th.

She was also a deciding factor in the Lady Bears' victory of conference arch-rival College of Mt. St. Vincent.

Wiecek's statistics for the week in which the USCAA recognized her were nothing short of amazing: 66 kills, 26 digs, 4 blocks and 5 aces along with a 92.6 serve percentage and a .491 hitting percentage.

Also key to the Lady Bears' success has been the play of Tamara Bulatovic, who was named the HVWAC Player of the Week.

A sophomore Middle Hitter, in the game vs. Mt. St. Vincent, she recorded 11 kills (a .533%), had 3 aces and 7 blocks. For the week, she averaged 14 kills and 11 blocks per match.

The Lady Bears have had the good fortune to return their championship team of 2005 intact, so all the starters are seasoned players used to tough HVWAC competition.

The only freshman on the squad is Ashley Rodriguez out of Brooklyn's Bishop Kearney High School.

Also notable during the 7-0 run has been the play of veterans Svetlana Medvedeva, Marzena Stadnicka and Bala Huseinovic.

MID-DAY MADNESS IS COMING!
Thursday, November 9th
Common Hour
In the Gym!